



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **EP-5**

August 21, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2003, SYNOPSIS 5 STATUS REPORT ON REMOVAL OF ELSMERE CANYON LANDFILL FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

On September 30, 2003, the Board instructed Public Works to take necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon from the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element's list of future landfill sites and to report back every 60 days. Based on our August 23, 2010, status report to the Board, the reporting frequency was changed from every 60 days to semiannually. This report covers the period from February 1, 2014, through July 31, 2014.

Since our last report dated February 6, 2014, an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation and a Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for the revised Siting Element were released on June 16, 2014, to responsible agencies. The comment period for the Initial Study ended on July 28, 2014. Public Works conducted six public scoping meetings during the weeks of July 14 and July 21, 2014, at various locations within the County. The Initial Study concluded that an Environmental Impact Report will be required. The next steps entail preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Report to accompany the preliminary draft of the revised Siting Element, which are anticipated to be released for public review in early 2015.

The Siting Element is a long-term solid waste planning and policy document that describes how the County and the cities within the County plan to manage the disposal of their solid waste for a 15-year planning period as required by AB 939. AB 939 also requires the Siting Element to establish goals and policies for the proper planning and siting of landfills, inert waste landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, and alternatives to landfill technologies, such as conversion technologies on a Countywide basis.

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We will submit the next status report in February 2015. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Pat Proano of Environmental Programs Division at (626) 458-3500.

BT:dy
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cc: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Executive Office



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Public Works

At its meeting held September 30, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

"On May 27, 2003, the Board instructed the Director of Public Works to investigate the process for removing the Elsmere Canyon site from the Countywide Siting Element's list of future landfill sites. Elsmere Canyon is an environmentally sensitive area of magnificent natural beauty, a natural and cultural treasure worthy of protection for the enjoyment and use of future generations. Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., the owner of the site, has indicated publicly its intent to donate a portion of the site to the County for use as open space.

"On June 24, 2003, the Director of Public Works reported back to the Board regarding its findings. Based on these findings, the most cost-efficient means of removing Elsmere Canyon from the Siting Element is during the five-year review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

"As required by State law, the Department of Public Works is about to commence the five-year review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan to determine if it needs to be updated to reflect current disposal and recycling conditions. Should the Board decide to remove Elsmere Canyon at a later date after the five-year review and revision process is completed, the removal could take two more years at an additional cost of up to \$500,000.

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"Moreover, I have recently been informed that Blind Canyon will need to be removed from the Siting Element at the time of the five-year review and revision of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan unless the site is made consistent with the County General Plan. Blind Canyon is located in the Santa Susana Mountains in the western part of the County in a significant ecological area. Furthermore, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy already has acquired most of the site for use as parkland. This site is also worthy of preservation and should be removed from the Siting Element."

Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Antonovich and on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich being absent), the Director of Public Works was instructed to:

1. Take all necessary steps to remove Elsmere Canyon and Blind Canyon from the Countywide Siting Element's list of future landfill sites during the required five-year review of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan; and
2. Report back to the Board on the progress every 60 days.

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Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel